September 2014
E-Update

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Greater Yuma EDC Mission Statement:
To expand economic activity within Yuma County by attracting commerce and industry to the region, and by assisting in developing the region's existing industry to its fullest potential.

Greater Yuma EDC Vision Statement:
Greater Yuma will be recognized as a globally competitive region—one that embraces advancing technology, attracts and retains human capital and continues to develop & foster the amenities that make the Yuma Region a great place to live and work.
GREATER YUMA EDC ANNUAL INVESTOR DINNER

Mark your calendars - the 2014 Annual Investor Dinner has been scheduled for Thursday, October 23, 2014 at the AWC Conference Center. You should be receiving an invitation during the week of September 15th.

Thank you to the following investors for their generous support and sponsorship of our Annual Dinner.

PLATINUM SPONSORS

VON VERDE DEVELOPMENT
Below you will find the information sent out by the Yuma Community Job Fair Event Sponsors to potential employers and educators to sign up to participate in the Job Fair being held at the Yuma Civic Center on October 8th, 2014.

Employers and Educators:

We invite you to register to participate at the job fair using the link below.

- Space is limited, so please register early
- Participants who sign up prior to August 31st will be mentioned in our promotional advertising and press releases.

We request that employers registering have jobs available. Employers listing positions will have priority. Space will be available to do onsite interviews if needed.


GYEDC will also have a bin placed on-site (our office: 899 East Plaza Circle #2, Yuma AZ 85364) to collect clothing for Goodwill Industries for the Job Fair. Goodwill does not receive enough “professional” or “work/office appropriate” clothing on their daily trucks from Phoenix. We would like to offer an interviewing/job fair outfit to everyone who attends two of the seminars that will be offered prior to October 8th. The seminars will prepare candidates with resume assistance, interviewing skills, and professional grooming/attire standards. Please donate any gently used suits, shirts, ties, dresses, skirts, and shoes… just drop them off here at our office!

**BRING YOUR PROFESSIONAL CLOTHING TO GYEDC BEFORE SEPTEMBER 26TH!!**

**HELP THOSE WHO ARE STRUGGLING TO FIND A JOB**
Plenary Session: “Southwest Arizona’s Economic Perspective”

Join Southwest Arizona Futures Forum (SAFF), Arizona Town Hall and communities around the state as we unite for a special panel discussion exploring “Arizona’s Economy.” Leaders across Arizona will discuss the use of our unique strengths across the state and the importance of uniting to support a thriving economy for all of Arizona’s diverse communities. Through the consensus-building process, participants in this plenary session will determine solutions and action steps on how to best collaborate as a state. Your participation in this important, locally-hosted event helps to ensure that the voice and input of Yuma County is heard across Arizona.

Panel Members:
Chris Camacho
   Arizona Economic Perspective
Julie Engel
   Economic Development advantages of Yuma County
Robert Pickels
   A look at the Yuma Economy

Friday, September 19, 2014
7:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Yuma County Main Library

Send your RSVPs to echavez@yumaregional.org
Or call 928-336-3030

For more information, please visit our website: safuturesforum.org
At the conclusion of World War II, nearly 70 years ago, Army Air Corps General Hap Arnold made an interesting observation. He said that the war had been won partially through the efforts of Americans flying aircraft, but predicted “the next war may be fought by airplanes with no men in them at all.” That’s a startling prediction. Though it didn’t prove accurate in the conflicts immediately following World War II, we may see it coming true soon. Early this year the military reached the two million flight hour milestone mark for unmanned aircraft. When one considers that at the start of combat activities in Southwest Asia in 2003 the Air Force flew only one unmanned combat air patrol per day, while averaging well over 60 now, that represents quite a feat.

Yuma Proving Ground is a major player in the Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) testing world for both military and private industry customers. Its UAS workload has steadily increased over the past ten years. Today, the proving ground tests between seven and 10 different UAS-types each week for a total of 20 to 30 weekly individual flights. The annual total of unmanned aircraft flight hours performed within the proving ground’s restricted airspace numbers well over 3000.

What attracts unmanned aircraft testers to Yuma? A number of factors make up that answer. Foremost is Yuma’s year-round good weather, over 360 days per year, and Yuma’s huge expanse of restricted airspace (over 2000 square miles over the proving ground alone.) Multiple airfields are available at YPG, with runways of varying lengths that enable testers to operate several flights at the same, plus plenty of hanger-space. In contrast, facilities in other states might have a limited number of available runways or require that all flights return to a single hub. Lastly, the proving ground’s aviation workforce has developed a well-earned reputation for technical expertise and high quality customer service.
Robyn Tiaden, chief of YPG’s aviation systems branch, says another factor exists as well. “We offer unique instrumentation and a variety of target sets for our customers,” she said, “that not all other test ranges have.”

These target sets can include armored vehicle hulls or stationary targets such as buildings or fighting positions, but they can also include something as simple as a thermal or infrared board which permits a sensor to seek the thermal conductivity that would radiate from a warm vehicle engine or even the warmth generated by a group of people.

“We like to think customers get more bang for the buck here than at other test facilities,” said Tiaden with a smile. “Customers get their work accomplished in a timely fashion here, plus they don’t often have to wait around due to bad weather or flight congestion.”

Unmanned aircraft tested at YPG have ranged from a two-foot wingspan vehicle launched by hand, a 60-foot wide long-endurance surveillance aircraft that takes off from a runway interspersed with manned aircraft, to an unmanned rotorcraft that carries a payload of over 6000 pounds. World records set at YPG include a 75-foot wide glider that flew for 14 days during the summer of 2010 at altitudes that climbed above 70,000 feet.

Whether test customers plan to use YPG’s restricted airspace to test the initial flight capabilities of a new unmanned aircraft system or look to obtain a formal assessment on specific aircraft performance characteristics, Yuma Proving Ground’s test experts are willing participants.
NEWS RELEASE
August 26, 2014
AVID Center

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Yuma Student Speaks to Audience About AVID Experience

SAN DIEGO – More than 28,000 educators attended AVID Summer Institutes, with over 4,400 in attendance at the San Diego Institute. The highlight of each Institute was the teacher and student speakers, who told their inspirational stories about the obstacles that they faced in preparing for their futures and how being a part of AVID significantly changed their life’s path. More than 1,000 essays were submitted from across the country, with only 20 student and 10 teacher essays selected to present as a speech to thousands of attendees across the 10 Institutes. Chosen for the San Diego Institute were student Diamond Rivera from Gila Ridge High School in Yuma Union High School District, Yuma, AZ, student Ronnie Garcia from Baldwin Park High School in Baldwin Park Unified School District, Baldwin Park, CA, and teacher Jose Quintero from Chaffey High School in Chaffey Joint Union High School District, Ontario, CA.

“The voices of the teachers and students give meaning to our work and inspire us to continue our efforts to reach and teach ALL students,” said AVID CEO Dr. Sandy Husk. “During my 17 years as a superintendent, I saw the tremendous impact AVID had in schools and the life-changing opportunities that are created for students through their hard work and determination. We want every child to experience the opportunities through AVID and are working to meet our goal of reaching more than two million students by 2020.”

An established leader in preparing first-generation and underserved students for college, AVID’s Summer Institutes offer annual professional development for member schools and districts, where teams of educators learn the latest in AVID curriculum and teaching techniques, acquire new skills, and share best practices.

AVID kicked off the Summer Institute season in Honolulu, HI, with Institutes in these other cities throughout the summer: Orlando and Tampa, FL; Indianapolis, IN; Dallas and San Antonio, TX; Philadelphia, PA; and Sacramento and San Diego, CA.

See all of the Dallas Summer Institute speakers’ speeches on the AVID YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/AVIDaboutAVID.

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ABOUT AVID
AVID, Advancement Via Individual Determination, is a non-profit, proven college-readiness system that closes the achievement gap. Today, AVID is implemented in approximately 4,900 schools in 45 states, the District of Columbia, and 16 countries/territories and impacts more than 700,000 students in grades K–12 and in 41 postsecondary institutions. The AVID College Readiness System transforms a school’s academic culture to increase the number of students who enroll in four-year colleges and succeed in higher education and training.

For more information, visit www.avid.org.
244 MILLION DOLLAR EXPANSION INCREASES DEMAND AT NOGALES PORT

NOGALES, AZ – With the upcoming $244 million expansion of the Mariposa Port of Entry, the Nogales Santa Cruz Port Authority is seeing increased demand for international trade warehouse space and property.

Nohe Garcia is the owner of the La Loma Grande Industrial Park, and he has been developing property for commercial development there. “Within the past 10 months, there is now demand that did not exist before the Nogales warehouse space,” he says. Nohe is currently finishing nine lots with infrastructure on 215 acres of his industrially zoned property.

Southern Arizona commercial land developers and Realtors® say that Mexico’s economic growth and rising global trade in agribusiness, mining, manufacturing and logistics industries through the Mariposa Port of Entry have also led to the increased demand for commercial and industrial space, according to a press release.

Denisse Angulo-Badilla, International Commercial Specialist with Cushman & Wakefield | PICOR, has seen a major increase in interest in the commercial space. “Nogales is a hot market,” she observes, “where industry is especially looking for space in the range of 5,000 – 50,000 square feet.” She also notes that more companies have approached her in the past six months than in the previous eight years, according to a press release.

To help meet this increased demand, several Nogales organizations are helping to connect local Realtors® and developers to prospective commercial and industrial industries. “Through the Nogales-Santa Cruz Economic Development Foundation and the Greater Nogales-Santa Cruz Count Port Authority, we are positioned to provide assistance to industries looking to find property and commercial space in Nogales, Arizona as a place to do international trade and to benefit from use of our Foreign Trade Zone,” says Nils Urman, representing Nogales Community Development.

Urman is also a member of the City of Nogales' economic development and tourism advisory board and a board member of the Greater Nogales-Santa Cruz County Economic Development Foundation. “With the increase in Mexican maquilas due to the 'nearshoring' trends to move operations from China to Mexico - which in Nogales, Sonora now employs about 34,000 people and includes more than 100 plants - we are becoming a 'logistics cluster' to support our port of entry. We, as a public-private partnership, are positioned to support the growing international trade industry in our region,” he added.

With all of the expansion that the port is currently experiencing, this is definitely one I will be keeping my eye on.
NEVADA OFFERS TESLA UP TO $1.3B FOR BATTERY PLANT

By SCOTT SONNER of Associated Press

CARSON CITY, Nev. (AP) — Gov. Brian Sandoval announced Thursday that Nevada won a high-stakes battle with four other states for Tesla Motors' coveted battery factory, but the win comes with a hefty price tag — up to $1.3 billion in tax breaks and other incentives over 20 years that state lawmakers still must approve.

Sandoval revealed terms of the deal he negotiated with the electric car maker at a ceremony on the Capitol steps attended by Elon Musk, CEO of California-based Tesla. Musk confirmed the search was over for a home for his $5 billion lithium battery "gigafactory," which the company hopes will bring it closer to mass production of a more affordable electric car.

The Republican governor called it a "monumental announcement that will change Nevada forever" and asserted that it would create more than 22,000 jobs and pump $100 billion into the state's economy over the next 20 years — claims that critics said were exaggerated. Sandoval didn't mention the total value of the incentive package in his remarks but nonetheless anticipated potential criticism for the size of the package. "Even the most skeptical economist would conclude that this is a strong return (on investment) for us," he said about the deal that already has drawn outside criticism from both the political left and the right that the tax breaks are too generous. So far, it has not encountered significant opposition from state lawmakers who must approve the incentives.

Musk told the audience that Nevada didn't offer the biggest incentive package among the five states that tried to lure the factory, though he didn't specify which did among California, Texas, Arizona, New Mexico and Nevada.

The most important considerations were not incentives, he said, but rather a high confidence that the factory will be ready by 2017, followed by assurances that batteries can be produced cost efficiently. "It's a real get-things-done state," Musk said in explaining how Nevada prevailed in what was a "relatively close" competition.

Musk, who arrived from London just before the ceremony, briefly bungled the pronunciation of "Nevada." But he recovered and twice received standing ovations from more than 200 dignitaries.

Later, Musk told reporters that Tesla would stop looking for another state as a backup. "Nevada is it," he said. The governor will call a special session of the Legislature as early as next week to seek approval of the incentives. Legislative leaders have reacted largely favorably at first blush.

House Speaker Marilyn Kirkpatrick, D-Las Vegas, said it represents "a significant opportunity to make a major stride to boost the economy" in a state that led the nation in unemployment during the depths of the Great Recession.

"I look forward to receiving the necessary information so the Legislature can meet and take necessary action to support this major industry coming to Nevada," she said in a joint statement with Sandoval and Musk that the governor's office issued Thursday.
NEVADA OFFERS TESLA UP TO $1.3B FOR BATTERY PLANT

Tesla’s choice for the facility gets it closer to mass producing an electric car that costs around $35,000 and can go 200 miles on a single charge. That range is critical because it lets people take most daily trips without recharging, a major barrier to the widespread adoption of electric vehicles.

The factory would bring down the cost of batteries by producing them on a huge scale. The facility would be approximately 10 million square feet, equivalent to about 174 football fields, and be located at an industrial park about 15 miles east of Sparks, a Reno suburb founded as a railroad town more than a century ago.

The ultimate cost of the incentive package to Nevada taxpayers depends on how much economic activity the factory generates. On the low end, it could be worth $865 million, according to Steve Hill, executive director of Sandoval’s Office of Economic Development.

Hill projected the factory would generate roughly $5 billion a year for 20 years for Nevada’s economy and directly or indirectly create 22,000 new jobs over two decades. That includes an estimated 6,500 permanent jobs at the factory with hourly wages above $25 and a peak of 3,000 construction jobs leading up to the opening of the plant in 2017.

He also that even with the tax breaks, the project should generate approximately $1.9 billion in tax revenue for all levels of government — state, local and school districts.

The largest subsidy for an auto-related plant was $1.3 billion that Chrysler received in 2010 to build an assembly plant in Michigan, according to the research group Good Jobs First, which tracks large incentive packages by states.

The group’s executive director, Greg LeRoy, said Sandoval’s projections of job creation and return on investment for the Tesla factory were implausibly rosy.

The governor said that every $1 Nevada invests in the effort will bring $80 back to the economy. LeRoy called that assertion "off the charts false." What he described as the proper calculation of tax breaks to tax revenues would put the return on investment at $2 or less for every $1 invested.

LeRoy also said the factory would create no more than about 10,000 permanent, non-construction jobs outside the factory, bringing the total to 19,500 — not the 22,000 that Sandoval’s administration claimed.
Visit our website at
www.greateryuma.org
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